APPENDIX

CLAIMS 1-113 ON APPEAL:

1.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable

computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a

configurable system;

b)   outputting explanatory information corresponding to at least one of said

configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and

c)   organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said

information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of

the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the

documentation, or a portion of the documentation, for said configurable system.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of automatically selecting said

explanatory information by said computer, in accordance with said configuration parameters.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said step of retrieving is performed using a

collector computer program operating on a first computer, and collecting said configuration

parameters from said configurable system, wherein said step of selecting is performed by a

second computer.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprises the step of transferring said configuration parameters from said first computer to said second computer via the Internet.

5.   The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of downloading said collector program onto said first computer.

6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of automatically activating said collector program after said step of downloading.

7.   The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of initiating said step of downloading from within a World Wide Web Browser.

8.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

b)   outputting explanatory information corresponding to at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

c)   constructing a table of contents for said documentation, or a portion thereof.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected from a group consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an electronic messaging system, a database management system, an enterprise resource planing system, a mass storage platform, file server system, a network router, and a network switching device.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said configurable system is selected from a group consisting of a Lotus Notes system, Novel Groupwise system, Microsoft Windows NT server, Microsoft Windows NT domain, Microsoft Windows 2000 system, Microsoft Windows 2000 domain, Unix operating system, Linux operating system, Sun Solaris operating system, EMC2 mass storage system, a Baan enterprise management system, a Peoplesoft enterprise management system, an Oracle database management system, and a Microsoft SQL Server database management system.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said configurable system is a SAP enterprise management system.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein said configurable system is a Microsoft Exchange messaging system.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected from a group consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an electronic messaging system, a database management system, a mass storage platform, file server system, a network router, and a network switching device.

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14.   The method of claim I wherein said configurable system is at least one selected from a group consisting of a Microsoft Exchange organization, Lotus Notes system, Novel Groupwise system, Microsoft Windows NT server, Microsoft Windows NT domain, Microsoft Windows 2000 system, Microsoft Windows 2000 domain, Unix operating system, Linux operating system, Sun Solaris operating system, EMC2 mass storage system, a Baan enterprise management system, a Peoplesoft enterprise management system, an Oracle database management system, and a Microsoft SQL Server database management system.

15.   The method of claim 1 wherein said configurable system is a SAP enterprise management system.

16.   The method of claim I wherein said configurable system is a Microsoft Exchange messaging system.

17.   The method of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of said explanatory information is grouped in accordance with interrelationship between configuration parameters corresponding to said portion of said explanatory information.

18.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

b)   outputting explanatory information corresponding to at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

c)   generating an index of at least selected parameters of said configuration parameters, and said explanatory information, said index detailing relative location of at least one of said selected parameters and at least a portion of said explanatory information within said document.

19.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

a) providing a computer readable set of rules, at least one of said rules having a range of acceptable values associated with one or more configuration parameters for said configurable system; and,

b) comparing said retrieved configuration parameters against said set of rules.

20.   The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of outputting an indication of error conditions if at least one of said configuration parameters violates one or more of said rules.

21.   The method of claim 19 wherein at least one of said rules also comprise indications of desired values for said associated parameter, and further comprising the step of outputting information conveying said desired values.

22.   The method of claim 21 wherein said desired values are computably modifiable.

23.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of retrieving is preformed using a collector computer program that collects said configuration parameters from said configurable system.

24.   The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of activating said collector computer program from within a World Wide Web browser.

25.   The method of claim 23 wherein said collector program is an ActiveX program.

26.   The method of claim 23 further comprising the step of constructing said collector program using the Java programming language.

27.   The method of claim 1, wherein said explanatory information is arranged in a template having placeholders embedded therein, said method further comprising the step of merging the values associated with said configuration variables with the template in accordance with said placeholders.

28.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of outputting further comprises embedding one or more drawings within said document.

29.   The method for claim 1 further comprising the step of storing said retrieved configuration parameters in a database adapted to store one or more sets of configuration variables, and retrieve portions of one or more said sets in response to queries.

30.   The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of embedding results of queries within said document.

31.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

a) storing a first set of configuration parameters from a configurable system;

b) storing a second set of configuration parameters from a configurable system; and,

c) outputting differences between said first and second sets of configuration Parameters.

32.   The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of outputting said documentation in a format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting of HTML, Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

33.   The method of claim 1 wherein said computer is integrated into said configurable system.

34.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of outputting is being performed by a software module integrated into said configurable system.

35.   The method of claim 2 wherein said step of selecting is being performed by a software module integrated into said configurable system.

36.   A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a first computer having data communication capability;

means for retrieving configuration parameters from a configurable system and communicating said parameters into said first computer;

means for generating explanatory information specific to said configurable system in accordance with said configuration parameters;

means for organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, into a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting a documentation, or a portion of said documentation, for said configurable system; and

means for outputting said documentation.

37.   The system of claim 36 wherein said means for retrieving comprises a computer program executed on a second computer coupled to said configurable system and wherein said first computer is in communication with said second computer via a data network.

38.   The system of claim 36 wherein said communication is conducted by means of the Internet.

39.   A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a)   a collector computer program adapted to retrieve configuration parameters from at least one configurable system;

b)   a documentation generator program, comprising:

i.   a template having explanatory information and place holders indicating placement of one or more configuration parameters;

ii.   a data parser in communication with said collector program, said parser adapted to parse said configuration parameters into associated values and merge said values into said template; and

iii.   an output module adapted to organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and said values associated with said configuration parameters and to output said template with said merged values in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion of said documentation, for said at least one configurable system.

40.   The system of claim 39 further comprising a set of acceptable values for at least one of said configuration parameters and wherein an error condition indication is outputted if the value of a configuration parameter violates said acceptable values.

41.   The system of claim 39 further comprising a database and a database management system for storing said configuration parameters, and wherein said database management system is adapted to respond to queries and output a portional view of said configuration parameters for output into said document.

42.   The system of claim 39 further adapted to store at least a first and a second set of said configuration parameters and to output parameters having value difference between said first and second set.

43.   A method for automated production of documentation for configurable computerized system, comprising the steps of:

a)   downloading a collector computer program to a first computer which is in communication with a configurable system;

b)   collecting configuration parameters from said configurable system using said collector program;

c)   transmitting said configuration parameters into a second computer having a documentation generator program operable thereon;

d)   outputting, using said documentation generation program, a document in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, comprising:

i.   explanatory information, regarding at least a portion of said configuration parameters;

ii.   said portion of said configuration parameters; and

iii.   a table of contents detailing relative location of at least certain segments of said explanatory information.

44.   The method of claim 43 further comprising the steps of

storing a first and a second set of configuration parameters; and,

comparing said first set and second set and outputting differences therebetween.

45.   The method of claim 43 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected

from a group consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an

electronic messaging system, a database management system, an enterprise resource planing

system, a mass storage platform, file server system, a network router, and a network switching

device.

46.   The method of claim 43 wherein said configurable system is a SAP enterprise

management system.

47.   The method of claim 43 wherein said configurable system is a Microsoft

Exchange messaging system.

48.   The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of outputting said

documentation in a format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting of

HTML, Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

49.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable

computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an

Intranet;

b)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from said

configurable system into said computer;

c)   outputting explanatory information corresponding with at least one of said

configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and

d)   organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said

information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of

the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the

documentation, or a portion of the documentation, for said configurable system.

50.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of automatically selecting

said explanatory information by said computer, in accordance with said configuration

parameters.

51.   The method of claim 49 wherein said step of retrieving is performed using a

collector computer program coupled to said configurable system.

52.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of constructing said collector

program as an ActiveX® program.

53.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of constructing said collector

program using the Java programming language.

54.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of automatically retrieving

said configuration parameters in accordance with a predetermined schedule.

55.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;

b)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

c)   outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

d)   constructing a table of contents for said documentation, or a portion thereof.

56.   The method of claim 55 wherein said computer is coupled via an Intranet to at least one configurable system selected from a group consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an electronic messaging system, a database management system, an enterprise resource planing system, a mass storage platform, file server system, a network router, and a network switching device.

57.   The method of claim 55 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected from a group consisting of Lotus Notes system, Novel Groupwise system, Microsoft Windows NT server, Microsoft Windows NT domain, Microsoft Windows 2000 system, Microsoft

Windows 2000 domain, Unix operating system, Linux operating system, Sun Solaris operating

system. EMC2 mass storage system, a Baan enterprise management system, a Peoplesoft

enterprise management system, an Oracle database management system, and a Microsoft SQL

Server database management system.

58.   The method of claim 49 wherein said computer is adapted to produce

documentation for a plurality of configurable systems.

59.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable

computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an

Intranet;

b)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a

configurable system into a computer;

c)   outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said

configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format

descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a

portion thereof; and

d)   maintaining an activity log detailing operations of said steps of retrieving and

outputting.

60.   The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of outputting said

documentation in at least one format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting

of HTML, Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

61.   The method of claim 49 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected

from a group consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an

electronic messaging system, a database management system, a mass storage platform, file

server system, a network router, and a network switching device.

62.   The method of claim 49 wherein said configurable system is at least one selected

from a group consisting of a Microsoft Exchange organization, Lotus Notes system, Novell

Group Wise system, Microsoft Windows NT server, Microsoft Windows NT domain, Microsoft

Windows 2000 system, Microsoft Windows 2000 domain, Unix operating system, Linux

operating system, Sun Solaris operating system, EMC2 mass storage system, a Baan enterprise

management system, a Peoplesoft enterprise management system, an Oracle database

management system, and a Microsoft SQL Server database management system.

63.   The method of claim 49 wherein said configurable system is a SAP enterprise

management system.

64.   The method of claim 49 wherein said configurable system is a Microsoft

Exchange messaging system.

65.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of outputting said documentation in at least one format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting of HTML, Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

66.   The method of claim 49 wherein at least a portion of said explanatory information is grouped in accordance with interrelationship between configuration parameters corresponding to said portion of said explanatory information.

67.   A method for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising the steps of:

a)   coupling a computer with at least a portion of a configurable system via an Intranet;

b)   retrieving configuration parameters having values associated therewith, from a configurable system into a computer;

c)   outputting explanatory information, corresponding with at least one of said configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or a portion thereof; and

d)   generating an index of at least selected parameters of said configuration parameters, and said explanatory information, said index detailing relative location of at least

one of said selected parameters and at least a portion of said explanatory information within said document.

68.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the steps of:

c) providing a computer readable set of rules, at least one of said rules having a range of acceptable values associated with one or more configuration parameters for said configurable system; and,

d) comparing said retrieved configuration parameters against said set of rules.

69.   The method of claim 68 further comprising the step of outputting an indication of error conditions if at least one of said configuration parameters violates one or more of said rules.

70.   The method of claim 68 wherein at least one of said rules also comprise indications of desired values for said associated parameter, and further comprising the step of outputting information conveying said desired values.

71.   The method of claim 70 wherein said desired values are computably modifiable.

72.   The method of claim 49 wherein at least a portion of said explanatory information is grouped in accordance with interrelationship between configuration_parameters corresponding to said portion of said explanatory information.

73.   The method of claim 49 wherein said step of outputting further comprises the step of embedding one or more drawings within said document.

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74.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the step of communicating said document to another computer by means of a World Wide Web server.

75.   The method for claim 49 further comprising the step of storing said retrieved configuration parameters in a database adapted to store one or more sets of configuration variables, and retrieve portions of one or more said sets in response to queries.

76.   The method of claim 75 further comprising the step of embedding results of queries within said document.

77.   The method of claim 49 further comprising the steps of:

a) storing a first set of configuration parameters from a configurable system;

b) storing a second set of configuration parameters from a configurable system; and,

c) outputting differences between said first and second sets of configuration parameters.

78.   A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable computerized systems, comprising:

a computer adapted to be coupled to a configurable system via an Intranet;

means for retrieving configuration parameters from said configurable system into said computer;

means for generating explanatory information specific to said configurable system in accordance with said configuration parameters;

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means for organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of

said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, into a

narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format

constituting a documentation, or a portion of said documentation, for said configurable system;

and

means for outputting said documentation.

79.   The system of claim 78 wherein said means for retrieving comprises a computer

program executed on a second computer coupled to said configurable system and wherein said

first computer is in communication with said second computer via an Intranet.

80.   A system for automatic production of documentation for configurable

computerized systems, comprising:

a)   a computer coupled to said configurable system via an Intranet;

b)   a collector program module operated on said computer and adapted to retrieve

configuration parameters from at least one configurable system;

c)   a documentation generator program module, comprising:

i.   a template having explanatory information and place holders indicating

placement of one or more configuration parameters;

ii.   a data parser in communication with said collector program module, said

parser adapted to parse said configuration parameters into associated values and merge said

values into said template; and

iii.   an output module adapted to organize said explanatory information, based

on at least one of a content of said explanatory information and said values associated with said

configuration parameters, and to output said template with said merged values in a narrative

format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form the documentation or

a portion of said documentation, for said at least one configurable system.

81.   The system of claim 80 further comprising a set of acceptable values for at least

one of said configuration parameters and wherein an error condition indication is outputted if the

value of a configuration parameter violates said acceptable values.

82.   The system of claim 80 further comprising a database and a database management

system for storing said configuration parameters, and wherein said database management system

is adapted to respond to queries and output a portional view of said configuration parameters for

output into said document.

83.   The system of claim 80 further adapted to store at least a first and a second set of

said configuration parameters and to output parameters having value difference between said

first and second set.

84.   The system of claim 80 further comprising a World Wide Web server adapted to communicate said documentation to another computer.

85.   The method of claim 80 further comprising the step of outputting said documentation in at least one format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting of HTML, Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

86.   A method for automated production of documentation for configurable computerized system, comprising the steps of:

a)   retrieving configuration parameters from a configurable system, into a computer that is in communication with said configurable system via an Intranet;

b)   selecting explanatory information in accordance with said configuration parameters;

c)   outputting, in a narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, a document comprising:

i.   said explanatory information;

ii.   values associated with said configuration parameters; and

iii.   a table of contents detailing relative location of at least certain segments of said explanatory information.

87. The method of claim 86 further comprising the steps of

storing a first and a second set of configuration parameters; and,

comparing said first set and second set and outputting differences therebetween.

88. The method of claim 86 wherein said configurable system is selected from a group

consisting of a configurable software application, a computer operating system, an electronic

messaging system, a database management system, an enterprise resource planing system, a

mass storage platform, file server system, a network router, a network switching device, or a

combination thereof.

89. The system of claim 86 further comprising a World Wide Web server adapted to

communicate said documentation to another computer.

90. The method of claim 86 further comprising the step of outputting said documentation

in at least one format compatible with a format selected from the group consisting of HTML,

Postscript, Latex, PCL, Microsoft Word, and Adobe Acrobat.

91. A self documenting configurable system, comprising:

a) explanatory information related to said configurable system;

b) at least one software module constructed to

i. merge a plurality of configuration parameters of said configurable system

with corresponding portions of said explanatory information related to said configurable system,

ii. organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content

of said explanatory information and values associated with said configuration parameters, and

iii.   output said explanatory information and said configuration parameters in a

narrative format descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, to form a document

specific to an instance of said configurable system.

92.   The self documenting configurable system of claim 91 wherein said software

module is embedded within said configurable system.

93.   The self documenting configurable software system of claim 91 wherein said

software module is constructed to be integrated into said configurable system while said

configurable system is being executed by at least one computer.

94.   A method for automated production of documentation for a configurable software

system, having at least a portion of its behavior modifiable by configuration parameters stored in

a computer accessible store, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   embedding into said configurable software system a software module constructed

to merge configuration parameters and explanatory information associated with said

configuration parameters;

b)   retrieving said configuration parameters, said configuration parameters having

values associated therewith, from said configurable system into a computer;

c)   outputting explanatory information corresponding with at least one of said

configuration parameters and a value associated with said parameter; and

d)   organizing said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content of said

information and said value associated with said parameter, into a narrative format descriptive of

the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting the

documentation, or a portion of the documentation, describing specifically said configurable

software system as configured.

95.   A self documenting configurable software system having configuration

parameters stored in at least one computer data store, comprising:

a)   a first software module constructed to retrieve at least a portion of said

configuration parameters from said computer data store; and

c)   a second software module constructed to

    i.   merge explanatory information and related parameters of at least said

portion of said configuration parameters,

    ii.   organize said explanatory information, based on at least one of a content

of said information and values associated with said relates parameters, into a narrative format

descriptive of the configuration of the configurable system, the narrative format constituting a

document, or a portion of the document, containing a description specific to said configurable

system, and

    iii.   output said document.

96.   A computer readable media containing software that when executed by a computer will cause said computer to substantially perform as the system of claim 36.

97.   A computer readable media containing software that when executed by a computer will cause said computer to substantially perform as the system of claim 78.

98.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

99.   The method according to claim 8, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

100.   The method according to claim 18, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

101.   The method according to claim 43, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

102.   The method according to claim 49, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

103.   The method according to claim 55, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

104.   The method according to claim 59, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

105.   The method according to claim 67, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

106.   The method according to claim 86, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

107.   The method according to claim 94, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

108.   The system according to claim 36, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

109.   The system according to claim 39, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

110.   The system according to claim 78, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

111.   The system according to claim 80, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

112.   The system according to claim 91, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.

113.   The system according to claim 95, wherein said explanatory information comprises text segments.